

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 23, 2010, please reconsider the claims and rejections of record in view of the following comments and amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 2-4 and claims 7-20 were found to contain allowable subject matter. The allowable claims 2-4 and claims 7-20 have been amended to include any intervening claims, namely claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 were amended to make these claims dependent on allowable claim 2. All of the amendments find support in the original claims and in the specification as whole.

No new matter has been added to the claims. It is urged that the pending allowable claims 2-4 and claims 7-20; and claims 5 and 6 which now depend on allowable claim 2, in their amended form, are now believed to be patentable.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gronski et al., Macromolecules 2002, 35, 3133-3144 (herein “Gronski”). Claim 1 has been cancelled and thus, the above rejection of claim 1 is now moot. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to make these claims dependent on allowable claim 2. Accordingly, in view of the amendments to claims 5 and 6, the claims should now be allowable over Gronski. Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 and claims 7-20 were allowed by the Patent Office. In view of the amendments to allowed 2-4 and claims 7-20; and to the dependency of claims 5 and 6, it is believed that the only claims remaining in the present application all contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, pending claim 2-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention, as now claimed in pending claims 2-20, is patentable over the cited art. Favorable reconsideration of the application and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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